

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 33-48, 65-74 and 108-127 are allowed, and that claims 14, 15, 19, 20, 60-64, 89, 90, 94-102 and 138-142 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 138-142 (which the Examiner indicated as being allowable) have been cancelled, without prejudice, and the subject matter of these claims has been incorporated in claims 1, 49, 75, 128, and 133, respectively. In addition, claims 19, 60 and 94 (which the Examiner indicated as being allowable) have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of independent claims 1, 49 and 75, and claims these amended claims depend from. Claims 14 and 15, and claims 89 and 90 have been amended to conform with the amendments to independent claims 1 and 75, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1-137 are now under consideration in the above-referenced application. Provided above, please find a claim listing indicating the current amendments to the previously-pending claims and the cancellation of claims 138-142 so as to comply with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

Claims 1-13, 16-18, 23-32, 49-59, 75-88, 91-93, 103-107 and 128-137 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,516,209 issued to Chang et al. (the "Chang Patent"). While the Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection of these claims, in order to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, independent claims 1, 49, 75, 128 and 133 have been amended above to include the recitation of now-cancelled claims 138-142, respectively, which were indicated by the Examiner as including allowable subject matter.

Accordingly the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of independent claims 1, 49, 75, 128 and 133 and claims which depend therefrom is now moot, and should therefore be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants reserve the right to continue these independent claims, in the form prior to the current amendments thereto, a continuing application.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 33-48, 65-74 and 108-127 are allowed, and that claims 14, 15, 19, 20, 60-64, 89, 90, 94-102 and 138-142 contain allowable subject matter. Thus, claims 138-142 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and the subject matter of these claims has been incorporated in claims 1, 49, 75, 128, and 133, respectively. In addition, claims 19, 60 and 94 have been rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of independent claims 1, 49 and 75, and claims on which these amended claims depend.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1-138 are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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